Launching of Satellites

1034. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO is planning to launch 10-12 satellites in the coming four years;

(b) if so, the details of the satellites that are going to be launched in the next four years; and

(c) what is the expected transponder capacity going to be increased with these launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The following are the details of the satellites which have been approved by the Government and for which the work is currently in different stages of progress. All these satellites are planned for launch in the next four years.

INSAT-4A, 4B and 4C	Communication satellites. INSAT-4C will be launched by India's GSLV.
GSAT-4 and GSAT-5	Communication satellites, planned for launch onboard India's GSLV.
Cartosat-2	Advanced satellite for cartographic mapping applications, planned for launch onboard India's PSLV.
Radar Imaging Satellite	Microwave remote sensing satellite with all-weather capability, planned for launch onboard India's PSLV.
Oceansat-2	Satellite for oceanography studies and services, planned for launch onboard India's PSLV.
Resourcesat-2	Remote sensing satellite for natural resource management applications, planned for launch onboard India's PSLV.
SRE-1&2	Development and qualification of re-entry and recovery technologies for future space transportation system and conduct of microgravity research, planned for launch onboard India's PSLV.

INSAT-3D	Advanced satellite for meteorological observations, planned for launch onboard India's GSLV.
Megha-Tropiques	Indo-French joint mission for tropical climatic research planned for launched onboard India's PSLV.
Chandrayaan-1	Unmanned mission to moon for Lunar exploration planned for launch onboard India's PSLV.
ASTROSAT	Multi-wavelength X-ray astronomy satellite planned for launch onboard India's PSLV.

(c) The transponder capacity is expected to increase by 60 transponders after the launch of INSAT-4A, 4B, 4C and GSAT-5 satellites.

Galileo Project

1035. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and European Union are set to sign a pact on Galileo project-a 30 satellites expected to be operational by 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is considered a real alternative to the American Global Positioning System;

(d) whether India's participation would guarantee availability of high quality signals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A framework Agreement between India and European Union on participation in Galileo programme was initiated at New Delhi on September 7, 2005 during the India-EU summit.

(c) Yes, Sir. When operationalised, it can become an alternative to Global Positioning System.

(d) Specific Agreement on guaranteed availability of high quality signal to India is not concluded.

(e) Does not arise.